

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS**

**MAYOR:** Louie A. Trujillo

**COUNCILORS:** David Ulibarri, Jr.  
David Romero  
Elaine Rodriquez  
Michael Montoya- **Absent**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Leo Maestas, City Manager  
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk  
Scott Aaron, City Attorney  
Eric Padilla, Sergeant at Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Trujillo called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., he welcomed everyone including Municipal Judge Eddie Trujillo to the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Trujillo took the opportunity to recognize the Las Vegas Police Department for their hard work which involved dealing with crime and danger and thanked them for their dedication in keeping the City of Las Vegas safe.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Romero stated that the executive session had been placed right after public input and asked if it could be skipped until they could have some open discussion and go into Executive Session if need be.

City Clerk Casandra Fresquez advised that she believed Council could go into executive session at any time, stating she placed it first on the agenda in case Council wanted to enter into closed session prior to the business item. She asked City Attorney Aaron what his thoughts were on that matter.

City Attorney Aaron stated that he did not have any problem with that.

Council agreed to having open discussion prior to going into executive session.

Councilor Romero made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Elaine Rodriquez	Yes	David Romero	Yes
David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Michael Montoya	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

City Clerk Fresquez advised that there was no public input at this time.

### **DISCUSSION**

Mayor Trujillo took the opportunity to recognize Antonio Salazar who is a member of the Las Vegas Police Department and advised they were looking forward to a very robust agenda and a robust law enforcement in the community. He stated that the initiatives were to work on drug/narcotics enforcement, public safety, traffic safety, community policing and to establish a better rapport with the citizens of our community which would involve officers in more civic, community and youth sport events. Mayor Trujillo was hopeful that this would lead the community to respect the Police Department once again and asked Council for their consideration to appoint Antonio Salazar as the next Chief of Police.

Councilor Romero advised that there had been some concern from the community as to why the Council did not have any input in regards to the appointment of the Chief of Police and asked City Attorney Aaron for clarification

regarding that matter.

City Attorney Aaron advised that under the City Charter, the Mayor is the only person that has the duty of putting forth a name to Council and Council then has the duty to consider that individual with their confirmation.

Mayor Trujillo stated he had been very open with the Council and had the opportunity to invite the Council to interview, question and speak with Mr. Salazar regarding this appointment.

Councilor Rodriquez discussed the importance of the role of our Police Officers and also the transparency to the public in regards to the appointment of the Chief of Police and some matters could not be discussed due to personnel matters. She advised that Council did not take this appointment lightly, that the community's needs and concerns were important and the public had the right to know as much as possible regarding the appointment.

Councilor Romero advised Mr. Salazar, out in the community there was a stigma regarding that he did not have enough experience, that the department was very young and one of the biggest concerns for the Governing Body was the need to do a better job in retaining our officers which included funding issues. He asked Mr. Salazar to discuss his plans in dealing with issues within the department, drug enforcement, speed enforcement and also why he felt that he was a good fit for the position of Chief of Police.

Officer Antonio Salazar informed that he had 14 years of corrections and law enforcement experience, he had plans to make police officers and himself more available to the community's needs and concerns and to hold public forums. He stated that the department was young although felt that the officers were experienced due to the amount of calls and situations that they have had to deal with. Mr. Salazar stated that he felt he could boost the morale in the department, that being transparent was important to him and using social media would help in communicating with the public. He stated that he had highly respected mentors that he could reach out to if need be, as he alone did not always have the answers.



Mr. Salazar discussed in detail the plans he had in regards to working with several outside agencies regarding a drug enforcement task force and drug treatment for the community.

Councilor Rodriguez advised that an improved relationship between the Chief of Police and the Optic was needed due to the limitation of many using social media and stated that she was a great supporter of education and felt it was important to obtain funding in any way possible to offer training for Police Officers.

Mayor Trujillo informed that this Governing Body had given more funding to the Police Department than any other administration and advised that there were many equipment needs for the officers and stated it would be a good time to request funding from them.

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. stated that he had been in this town for many years and had seen a lot of policing although felt that our children and families were being hurt by drug dealers. He added that we all needed to respect each other and that he believed in giving people chances. Councilor Ulibarri thanked Mr. Salazar for speaking on his goals for the Police Department.

Mayor Trujillo stated that the City was going to move forward quickly with this drug/narcotic enforcement, he would be pushing the department and they would commit to providing the resources in order to get these drugs off the streets.

Councilor Romero stated this administration could not take the credit for the extra funding for the Police Department this past year, that it came from Covid relief although advised that the important thing right now was to move forward with drug enforcement and the safety of everyone involved. He stated that the Governing Body would do their best to keep Police Officers in a safe environment, that morale would be great in the department and that the needed tools would be provided. Councilor Romero stated that he expected to see progress and that the Chief sets the example for the officers. Councilor Romero further stated that he had a few more concerns, however those concerns would fall into personnel matters that should only be discussed in Executive Session.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Romero made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H)(2) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Elaine Rodriguez	Yes
David Romero	Yes	Michael Montoya	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Romero made a motion to reconvene into Regular Session. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Romero	Yes	Elaine Rodriguez	Yes
David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Michael Montoya	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Request approval to appoint Antonio Salazar as Police Chief for the City of Las Vegas and enter into a Professional Contract.

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo advised that as per City of Las Vegas Municipal charter, Article V, Officer, Directors and Employees, Section 5.06. City of Police, A. The Mayor shall appoint the chief of Police, subject to Council approval. The Governing Body shall enter into a contract with the chief of police, which shall establish, among other matters, compensation, benefits, duties and responsibilities.

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion to approve the appointment of Antonio Salazar as Police Chief for the City of Las Vegas. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:



Elaine Rodriquez	Yes	David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes
David Romero	Yes	Michael Montoya	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised that the motion carried.

Councilor Rodriquez made a motion to enter into a Professional Contract with Antonio Salazar as Police Chief for the City of Las Vegas. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	David Romero	No
Elaine Rodriquez	Yes	Michael Montoya	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Mayor Trujillo congratulated Antonio Salazar on his appointment as Chief of Police for the City of Las Vegas.

Antonio Salazar was sworn in as Chief of Police by Municipal Judge Eddie Trujillo.

2. Discussion and direction from the governing body regarding matters related to proposed charter amendments.

City Attorney Scott Aaron advised that the Charter Commission requested legal counsel to review their proposed charter amendments. He stated that the proposed amendments were on a strict timeline and he spoke with Fransisco Apodaca in regards to the Commission needing some more time. City Attorney Aaron stated that there were two issues; the proposed charter amendments and the other was getting Census data. He further stated that the Charter requires Council to appoint a committee for redistricting and also to hire an attorney to review the amendments. He stated that he wanted to get the procurement process started as soon as possible due to the lack of time.

City Attorney Aaron advised he would speak with Mr. Apodaca about the Charter Commission providing Council what they have completed to date by the second council meeting in August and asked Council to create their lists of charter amendments and thereafter reconciliation would take place and then sent to the

attorney for review and then provide those amendments to the City Clerk by December 1st in order to make it on the ballot.

Lengthy discussion and questions took place regarding some of the proposed amendments submitted by Council to the Charter Commission, the process of how proposed charter amendments would be addressed by the attorney and Council and how they would appear on the voter ballot. Also discussed was the timeline and the need to create a conceptual timeline table and several views about redistricting were exchanged.

### **ADJOURN**

Councilor Romero made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Rodriguez seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Elaine Rodriguez	Yes
David Romero	Yes	Michael Montoya	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

  
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Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:

  
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Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk